



KENYA
BLACK LEOPARD EXPERIENCE

4 -10 JULY 2024

Ignacio Palacios

KENYA

Black leopards, ghosts in the darkness, are exceptionally rare, almost impossible to find in the wild. But recently, with thanks to expert guiding and community led conservation, it's now possible to significantly increase your chances of seeing these beautiful, elusive big cats in their natural habitat in Kenya.



The black leopard, also known as a black panther, is a melanistic variation of the better-known spotty variety, which means they have an excess of black pigmentation that makes their coats much darker. Melanistic leopards still have spots (which aren't actually spots, but rosettes), but these distinctive markings can be harder to see on the darkest of these leopards, making them appear completely black.

In 2019 it was confirmed the first sighting of a black leopard in Laikipia, Kenya. Leopards, much like domestic cats, quickly become habituated to their environment and so, over time, this leopard became increasingly comfortable with humans and sightings became a little more frequent. To date, there are now five known black leopards frequenting the Laikipia region of Kenya. At Laikipia Wilderness Camp, a female who has become very used to human settlement has made her home in the rocky outcrops around the camp and she is seen or heard almost daily. She has recently been mating but it is unknown if she was successful. Black leopard sightings are now increasing at an astounding rate as these incredible big cats begin to feel more at home in the area.

Leopard sightings are incredibly rare, and black leopard sightings, until recently, nearly impossible. But to up your chances we are staying 6 nights at Laikipia Wilderness Camp, with a private vehicle and guide (exclusive use of a vehicle is vital if you're dedicated to your search).

Laikipia Wilderness Camp is a family-owned, no-fuss bush camp an hour and a half drive from Nanyuki town in Laikipia, central Kenya. Its six tents enjoy uninterrupted wilderness views, open air ensuite bathrooms and a central communal area which has power for charging equipment, a comfortable lounge and dining space.

With expert guiding and no off-roading or activity restrictions, Laikipia Wilderness is an ideal destination for anyone looking for an authentic, off-the-beaten-track safari experience. This is also the best place in Kenya to track and photograph African wild dogs on foot! With fewer than 6,000 African wild dogs left in the wild, this experience, together with the chance of seeing the elusive black leopard make it an incredibly unique destination.

"It's now possible to significantly increase your chances of seeing these beautiful, elusive big cats in their natural habitat in Kenya."



Accommodation

Within this 70,000-acre landscape Laikipia Expeditions has two camps; Laikipia Wilderness Camp and Laikipia River Camp. Both Camps are designed to provide an authentic safari experience while contributing to the local area economically and environmentally.



PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your African adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you'll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- Photographing wildlife
- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Camera Skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you'll learn the craft with an award-winning master.

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

Although this expedition does not require high altitude travel participants should be in good general health.



“No matter your skill level or equipment, you’ll learn the craft with an award-winning master.”





IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

Awards

- Spanish Professional Photography Awards (AFP) – Landscape Winner (LUX Gold) 2014
- APPA AIPP Landscape Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2016
- APPA AIPP Creative Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2019
- Head On Landscape Prize – Exhibited Finalist 2013, 2016, 2018
- NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year – Overall Winner 2018
- NSW AIPP Professional Travel Photographer of the Year – Winner 2017, 2018, 2019
- NSW AIPP Professional Nature Photographer of the Year – Winner 2016, 2017/Finalist 2018, 2019
- NSW AIPP Professional Landscape Photographer of the Year – Finalist 2014, 2016 2017/Winner 2018
- NSW Epson Signature Worthy Award – Winner 2017
- APPA AIPP Photographic Book of the Year – Finalist 2018, 2019
- ANZANG Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the year – Finalist 2013
- National Geographic Travel Contest – Finalist and Editors choice 2013
- Travel Photographer of the Year – Finalist (TPOTY) 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
- Travel Photographer of the Year – Category Winner and Portfolio Runner-Up 2019, Category Runner-Up 2021
- TPOTY – Highly Commended 2014, 2015, Commended 2018, 2 x Special Mentions 2019
- International Landscape Photographer of the Year – Category Winner 2016, 2018, 2019
- EPSON Pano Awards Open Competition – Top 50: 2016, 2017, 2018
- IPA (International Photography Awards) – Finalist 2009, Honorable Mention 2009, 2013, 2015, 2019
- International Loupe Awards – Runner up 2010, Finalist 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Final Round 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019
- GDT European Nature Photographer of the Year – Finalist 2017
- MontPhoto Landscape – Finalist 2020
- Eyes on Asia Awards – Runner Up 2013
- FOCUS Awards – Image of the Year 2016, 2018



"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

CHECKLIST



“My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments.”

Ignacio Palacios

Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lens
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One. Please make sure that these programs are working properly on your laptop before you arrive.
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- Lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus, perhaps, a x1.4 teleconverter. I am planning to bring the following lenses: 24-70mm f2.8, 70-200mm f2.8 and possibly a 180-400 f4 or a 400mm f2.8 prime.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- We recommend comfortable clothing made of fabric that breaths (such as cotton) and pack a combination of short sleeve and long sleeve top and pant options
- Comfortable hiking boots.
- Travel and medical insurance, passport, visa, medication that might include malaria pills

Luggage preparations

- Additional luggage allowances have been arranged across all of your internal flights for your convenience
- We recommend you shrinkwrap your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible. In the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit. It is recommended that the cancellation insurance covers for the whole cost of the trip.

To reserve your place for 2024 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **4 – 10 July 2024**

The tour commences in **Nairobi** and ends in Nairobi

Standard cost: **US\$11,490** per person;
Optional single supplement: **US\$1,390**

Maximum **6** participants

A deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- Note: the workshop is quoted in USD\$. To calculate the rate in AUD\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance
- The online Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before 1 March 2024
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 4 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 7 day/6-night tour, photography instruction by Ignacio Palacios
- All meals (B, L, D) and accommodation at Laikipia Lodge
- Private transfers from and to airports, vehicle and guide
- Drinking water
- Park/reserve fees
- Local taxes.

What's not included

- Flights to and from Nairobi
- Accommodation and meals prior to or following the trip
- Travel, cancellation, and equipment insurances
- Medical insurance
- Visas
- Alcohol consumption
- Beverages and snacks in between main meals
- Hotel Minibar, laundry services and late check-outs
- Souvenirs and other personal expenses
- Tips and gratuities for guides and drivers.

Note on tips: gratuities for local guides, hotel staff, butlers etc. are not included on this tour. However, if you feel that any staff has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 January 2024 and 28 February 2024, 60% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled after 1 March 2024, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable

- Bookings made after 1 March 2024 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain and tracks and hike uphill through thick vegetation until the gorillas are found. A good level of walking fitness is important, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be

accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas/Covid-19

I will provide guidance on this to obtain your visas (if required) and we will update you before the trip with regards to covid tests (if required) prior departure.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography

will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit

- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography

does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2024
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



IGNACIO PALACIOS
TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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